

Martin Cohn

23B Upper River Road,
PO BOX 394
NEWFANE, VT 05345
(802) 221-4821

December 13, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of Brattleboro Community Television, Inc. (File ID 1113560010350) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Over the past four years, I have produced four shows at Brattleboro Community Television: (1) *Family Matters*: a show that builds awareness about child development; (2) *Safstor Matters*: a show that communicates information about decommissioning at Vermont Yankee Nuclear; (3) *Healthcare Matters*: a show that provides information on a variety of timely health topics; and (4) *Rotary Cares*: a show that explains all the workings of Rotary International, a 100+ year-old service organization. These shows have won awards and accolades from viewers. However, not of these shows would be seen without local access television.

This local presence enables the residents of Vermont's Windham County to create and watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators – something that was never the intent of the Act – and could ultimately result in such reduction in franchise fees as to defund PEG Access in our state.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,



Martin Cohn